

## I CLAIM:

1. A method of playing a poker based wagering game comprising:
  - said player receiving five or more random cards;
  - 5 said player selecting to hold one or more of the five or more random cards;
  - if said one or more hold cards is common to a royal flush, providing the player an opportunity to place a wager;
  - if said player elects to place the wager, replacing one or more of the non-hold cards with cards needed for partial completion of the royal flush such that the player
  - 10 has a higher probability of successfully drawing the royal flush after placing the wager than before placing the wager;
  - randomly replacing each of the player's cards not common to the royal flush; and
  - awarding said player a payout if a player's final poker hand is the royal flush.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein if the player places the wager, the non-hold cards are replaced in such a number that the player holds a poker hand having four of the five cards necessary to complete the royal flush.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1 wherein if the player places the wager and the player's final hand is not a royal flush, the player continues to be eligible for an award based on the poker ranking of the player's final hand.
- 25 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the player receives an award if the poker ranking of the player's final hand is a pair of jacks or better.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein preestablished odds are related to the number of player selected hold cards common to the royal flush.
- 30 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the player initially receives five random cards.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein preestablished odds range from 40 to 1 to 50 to 1 on the wager.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the player initially receives seven cards.

5

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the method is facilitated by an electronic gaming machine.

10. A method of playing a poker based wagering game comprising:

10

said player receiving five random cards;

said player selecting to hold one or more of the five random cards;

if said one or more hold cards is common to a royal flush, providing the player an opportunity to place a wager;

15

if said player elects to place the wager, replacing one, two or three non-hold cards to form a poker hand having four of the five cards necessary to complete the royal flush;

randomly replacing the player's one card not common to the royal flush; and

awarding said player a payout if the player completes the royal flush.

20

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the player is awarded a payout if the player's final hand is of a minimum preestablished poker ranking less than the royal flush.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the minimum preestablished poker ranking is a pair of jacks or better.

25

13. The method of claim 10 wherein preestablished odds are in the range of 40 to 1 to 50 to 1 on the wager.

30

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the method is facilitated by an electronic gaming machine.

15. A gaming machine comprising:

a processor in communication with a random number generator and display;  
one or more player interfaces;

said random number for generating a display of five or more random cards;

5       said one or more player interfaces for allowing a player to hold one or more of the  
five or more displayed random cards such that if said hold one or more cards is  
common to a royal flush, said processor for providing the player an opportunity to place  
a wager;

10       if said player elects to place the wager, said processor further for replacing one  
or more of the non-hold cards with cards needed for partial completion of the royal flush  
such that the player has a higher probability of successfully drawing the royal flush after  
placing the wager than before placing the wager;

said random number generator further for causing replacement of each of the  
player's cards not common to the royal flush; and

15       said processor further for awarding said player a payout if a player's final poker  
hand is the royal flush.

20       16. The gaming machine of claim 15 wherein said processor further for awarding a  
payout if the player's final hand is of a minimum preestablished poker ranking less than  
the royal flush.

17. The gaming machine of claim 16 wherein the minimum preestablished poker  
ranking is a pair of jacks or better.

25       18. The gaming machine of claim 15 wherein preestablished odds are in the range of  
40 to 1 to 50 to 1 on the wager.

30